Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended).** An air diffusing vacuum transport belt for transporting image carrying substrates without vacuum belt induced image defects, the air diffusing vacuum transport belt comprising:

(a) a first perforated layer for mounting over a vacuum plenum, said first perforated layer including a top surface and a bottom surface, solid areas, and perforated hole areas interspersing said solid areas for directing pressurized airflow from said top surface through to said bottom surface; and

(b) a second non-perforated layer formed over said top surface of said first perforated layer and covering said solid areas and said perforated hole areas, said second non-perforated having an inner surface positioned over said top surface of said first perforated layer, and an outer surface for uniformly supporting substrates, and said second non-perforated layer being made of a selected electrically non-conductive material having a density that is less than a density of said first layer, and being porous to air for diffusing pressurized airflow from said outer surface thereof into said perforated hole areas of said first perforated layer, thereby enabling transporting of image carrying substrates without vacuum belt induced image defects.

Cancel Claim 2.

3. **(Original).** The air diffusing vacuum transport belt of claim 1, wherein said second non-perforated layer is laminated onto said top surface of said first perforated layer.

Cancel Claim 4.

5. **(Original).** The air diffusing vacuum transport belt of claim 1, wherein said outer surface of said second non-perforated layer is smooth for providing a uniform support surface for a back side of an image carrying substrate.

6. **(Currently amended).** The air diffusing vacuum transport belt of claim [[4]]1, wherein said second non-perforated layer is made of a woven fabric material.

Cancel Claim 7.

Cancel Claim 8.

Cancel Claim 9.

10. **(Currently amended).** An air diffusing vacuum transport assembly comprising:

(a) a ~~frame defining a~~ vacuum plenum assembly including a vacuum chamber;

(b) belt support means for supporting a moveable continuous belt around said vacuum plenum assembly; and

(c) an air diffusing vacuum transport belt mounted around said vacuum plenum assembly ~~frame~~ for supporting and transporting a substrate over said vacuum plenum assembly ~~frame~~, said air diffusing vacuum transport belt including:

(i) a first perforated layer for mounting over [[a]]said vacuum plenum assembly, said first perforated layer including a top surface and a bottom surface, solid areas, and perforated hole areas interspersing said solid areas for directing pressurized airflow from said top surface through to said bottom surface; and

(ii) a second non-perforated layer formed over said top surface of said first perforated layer and covering said solid areas and said perforated hole areas, said second non-perforated having an inner surface positioned over said top surface of said first perforated layer, and an outer surface for uniformly supporting substrates, and said second non-perforated layer being made of a selected electrically non-conductive material having a density that is less than a density of said first layer, and being porous to air for diffusing pressurized airflow from said outer surface thereof into said perforated hole areas of said first perforated layer, thereby enabling transporting of image carrying substrates without vacuum belt induced image defects.

11. **(Currently amended).** The air diffusing vacuum transport assembly of claim 10, wherein said vacuum plenum assembly includes a top plate having airflow apertures located below said air diffusing vacuum transport belt.

Cancel Claim 12.

Cancel Claim 13.

14. **(Currently amended).** The air diffusing vacuum transport assembly of claim 10, wherein said belt support means includes a heat pipe ~~roller assembly~~ for removing heat from said air diffusing vacuum transport belt.

15. **(Currently amended).** The air diffusing vacuum transport assembly of claim 14, wherein said heat pipe ~~assembly~~ comprises a roller including a sealed heat conductive fluid.

16. **(Currently amended).** The air diffusing vacuum transport assembly of claim 14, wherein said heat pipe ~~assembly~~ includes cooling fins for dissipating heat from said heat pipe.

17 **(Currently amended).** An image producing machine comprising:

(a) a belt module ~~machine frame~~;

(b) sheet feeders~~substrate supply and handling means~~ for supplying and moving an image receiving sheet~~substrate~~ through said belt module ~~machine frame~~;

(c) imaging means including toner ~~marking material~~ for forming an image on said image receiving sheet~~substrate~~; and

(d) an air diffusing vacuum transport assembly for transporting said image receiving sheet~~substrate~~ within said belt module ~~machine frame~~, said air diffusing vacuum transport assembly including an air diffusing vacuum transport belt for supporting and transporting a sheet~~substrate~~, said air diffusing vacuum transport belt including:

(i) a first perforated layer for mounting over a vacuum plenum, said first perforated layer including a top surface and a bottom surface, solid areas, and perforated hole areas interspersing said solid areas for directing pressurized airflow from said top surface through to said bottom surface; and

(ii) a second non-perforated layer formed over said top surface of said first perforated layer and covering said solid areas and said perforated hole areas. said second non-perforated having an inner surface positioned over said top surface of said first perforated layer, and an outer surface for uniformly supporting sheets~~substrates~~, and said second non-perforated layer being made of a selected electrically non-conductive material having a density that is less than a density of said first layer, and being porous to air for diffusing pressurized airflow from said outer surface thereof into said perforated hole areas of said first perforated layer, thereby enabling transporting of image carrying sheets~~substrates~~ without vacuum belt induced image defects.

18. **(New).** The image producing machine of claim 17, wherein said belt support means includes a heat pipe for removing heat from said air diffusing vacuum transport belt.

19. **(New).** The image producing machine of claim 17, wherein said heat pipe comprises a roller including a sealed heat conductive fluid.

20. **(New).** The image producing machine of claim 17, wherein said heat pipe includes cooling fins for dissipating heat from said heat pipe.